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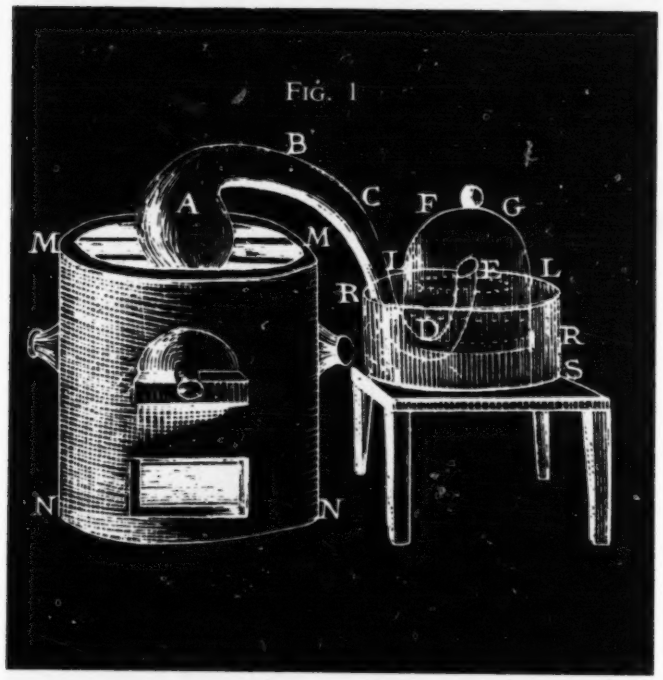

The Library of Congress

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THE DIVISION

The Science and Technology Division of the Library of Congress has its origins in the post-war boom in scientific research. Although science has always been well represented in the Library's collections, it was not until after World War II that a focal point for science and technology was created in the Library. The collections now number, in science and technology alone, three million books, nearly 60,000 journals, and three million technical reports. The collections include such treasures as first editions of Copernicus and Newton and the personal papers of the Wright Brothers and Alexander Graham Bell. With the growing significance of science in our daily lives, as well as the nation's burgeoning scientific and technical information demands, the Science and Technology Division has assumed a larger role in service to the government, the scientific and academic communities, and the general public.

MISSION

The division has primary responsibility for providing reference and bibliographic services and for recommending acquisitions in the broad areas of science and technology. With the exception of technical agriculture and clinical medicine, which are subject specialties of the National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine, the Library attempts to collect in all aspects of science and technology.

SERVICES

Reference services based on the Library's science and technology collections are provided to users in person, by telephone, and by correspondence. Indirect reference service is provided through bibliographic guides and research reports prepared by division subject specialists and reference librarians.

SCIENCE READING ROOM

The Science Reading Room is located on the fifth floor of the John Adams Building. Reference librarians are on duty to guide readers in their searches and to assist them in the use of the Science Reading Room reference collection. This reference collection includes technical dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, directories, and standard reference texts in the basic sciences as well as current issues of selected science journals and major abstracting and indexing journals in the physical, earth, biomedical, and engineering sciences.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

The Library maintains the world's largest and most accessible collection of technical reports (approximately three million). They include reports issued by the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Defense, and other U.S. Government agencies. Of special interest is the collection of reports of the World War II Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) which, along with its register of unique copies in other facilities, is the most extensive record of the work of OSRD in existence and provides a substantially complete catalog of its reports.

Sixty percent of the Library's technical reports collection is in the division's immediate custody, with the remainder in the Library's general (classed) collection and in its Photoduplication Service archives. The division's technical information specialists are available to guide readers in their use of the technical reports collection. Most of the reports in custody of the division are on microfiche, and microfiche readers are available for on-site users. Coin-operated reader/printers are available for those wanting report copies. A guide describing the collection and how it may be accessed is available at no charge from the division.

COLD REGIONS BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT

This ongoing project produces two bibliographies for sponsoring agencies. The *Antarctic Bibliography* (monthly and cumulative) is published by the Library of Congress under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation, and the *Bibliography on Cold Regions Science and Technology* (annual) is published and sponsored by the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory.

LC SCIENCE TRACER BULLET SERIES

The division issues an informal series of reference guides targeted to the literature of a given topic (alcohol fuels, edible wild plants, genetic engineering, solar energy, etc.). As a literature guide designed to help the researcher begin locating published materials on a subject about which he or she has only general knowledge, each *Tracer Bullet* puts the reader on target by listing basic texts, bibliographies, state-of-the-art reports, conference proceedings, and government publications, as well as abstracting and indexing services useful in finding journal articles and technical reports. Fast-changing subjects are covered by supplements and occasional updates. A master list of the *Tracer Bullet* series, as well as individual *Tracer Bullets*, is available without charge from the division.

PUBLICATIONS

Over the years, the division has produced more than 100 bibliographies, chronologies, indexes, and monographs, some of which are issued in a series, such as NASA's annual chronology, *Astronautics and Aeronautics*. Most of these publications were completed on a cooperative basis, where the Library-produced manuscript was published by a sponsoring or requesting agency. The division has worked on these terms with, among others, the Department of the Interior, several branches of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The division has also produced a wide variety of occasional bibliographies and special publications that are published by the Library of Congress. The following selected reading list reflects the strength of the Library's collections in aeronautics:

Wilbur and Orville Wright: A Bibliography Commemorating the Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Wilbur Wright (1967);

Wilbur and Orville Wright: A Chronology Commemorating the Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Orville Wright (1975);

Unidentified Flying Objects: A Selected Bibliography (1976);

Photographs by the Wright Brothers: Prints from the Glass

Negatives in the Library of Congress (a micropublication 1978).

HOURS OF SERVICE

The Science Reading Room, located on the fifth floor of the Library's John Adams Building, is open to the public during the following hours:

Monday–Friday	8:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m. (8:30 p.m.)*
Saturday	8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m.)*
Sunday/Holidays	1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. (4:30 p.m.)*

Closed Christmas Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day.

* Stack service ends at time shown in parentheses.

TELEPHONE

Office of the Chief	287–5674
Reference Service	287–5639
Science Reading Room	287–5639
Technical Reports Section	287–5655
Science Reference Section	287–5580
Cold Regions Bibliography Project	287–5668

MAILING ADDRESS

Library of Congress
Science and Technology Division
Washington, D.C. 20540

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Cover illustration

THE FAMOUS MERCURY EXPERIMENT.

From Lavoisier's *Traité élémentaire de chimie* (Paris, Gauthier-Villars, 1937), p. 21.

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